Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman Senate Commerce Committee 508 Dirksen Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Stevens:

Our companies have several things in common. Each of us manufactures telecom equipment and software, and each of us has sold our products to Alaska telecom service providers. Indeed, on a combined basis, our companies have sold millions of dollars of product to Alaska telecom providers and users within the last three years alone.

Most importantly, however, each of us, like scores of other telecom manufacturers, supports S. 1504, the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act, introduced last week by Senators Ensign and McCain. Telecom manufacturers support this legislation because it would stimulate billions in new telecom investments in Alaska and throughout the rest of the country by eliminating dozens of outdated regulatory requirements that slow telecom investments and no longer serve a valid purpose. Experts have projected that during the first five years after enactment, legislation of this type will increase capital spending by nearly \$60 billion, create 333,000 new jobs, and add \$634 billion to the nation's GDP.

We hope you will permit your committee to vote on telecom reform legislation early this fall, and we urge you to incorporate S. 1504 into that legislation.

Mauro Bonomi, CEO

Minerva Networks, Inc.

2111 Tasman Drive

Santa Clara, CA 9505/4

Mary Vermeer Andringa, President and

CEO

Vermeer Manufacturing Company

1210 Vermeer Road East

Pella, IA 50219

Sincerely,

William G. Johnson, President and CEO

NorthStar Communications Group, Inc.

1900 International Park Drive

Birmingham, AL 35243